



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER  
COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

CHAIR, TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE,  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

May 24, 2011

Mr. Richard Sarles  
General Manager and Chief Executive Officer  
Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority  
600 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Sarles:

I am writing about the proposed elimination of the E6 bus route, (the Chevy Chase Line). It is my hope that the important service this route provides to the residents of Chevy Chase can be maintained. I recognize the need to find savings in WMATA's budget wherever possible, and I hope that we can work together to find a balance between cost-cutting and serving the transportation needs of our residents.

As you are aware, the E6 route provides access to the Friendship Heights Metro Station for residents of Chevy Chase, particularly those who live in the communities of Rollingwood and Martin's Additions. These are walkable communities with a significant population of seniors who rely on the E6 bus for access to the local businesses, the Chevy Chase Library and Community Center, and easy access to the greater Washington area via Metrorail. Eliminating this line would place a significant burden on these residents, forcing many of them to either walk great distances or drive to access these sites.

The current proposal to compensate for this service cut, the extension of the M4 route to the Knollwood Retirement Home in Washington, would provide some relief, but would surely result in more limited access and increased wait times between buses, and would not provide adequate access to the rail system. Rather than total elimination of the E6, I would like to request that WMATA consider other cost saving strategies, such as reducing non-peak hour buses. It must also be considered that if the E6 line were eliminated, Metro would lose much of the ridership from these neighborhoods, causing further revenue loss. When a bus line is removed entirely, it is very difficult to bring it back; I believe that other options should be explored before that step is taken.

As a member of the Montgomery County Council, I am all too aware of the need to find budgetary savings for the coming fiscal year. I am equally confident, however, that we can achieve that goal without removing vital transportation services to our residents. I look forward to hearing your thoughts with respect to my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Berliner', written over the printed name.

Roger Berliner

CC:

Michael Barnes, Principal Director, WMATA Board of Directors  
Kathryn Porter, Alternate Director, WMATA Board of Directors  
Charlie Scott, Acting Director of Government Relations, WMATA  
Councilmember Mary Cheh, Council of the District of Columbia  
Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Council of the District of Columbia  
Art Holmes, Jr., Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
Fritz Hirst, President, Rollingwood Citizens Association  
Jean Sperling, Manager, Village of Martin's Additions  
David Lublin, Mayor, Town of Chevy Chase  
David L. Winstead, Chair, Chevy Chase Village Board of Directors